

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, and 15 and have added new dependent claims 17-19 as set forth above. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

The Office has rejected claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 15, 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, asserting that claims 4, 10, 15 are indefinite because the specification and the drawing do not disclose that the plate has both a spring and a biasing element. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 4, 10, 15 to eliminate the reference to a spring as set forth above. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 15, and 16.

The Office has rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,879,194 to Thenaisie et al. (Thenaisie). The Office asserts that Thenaisie et al. discloses an electrical connection system with: a first electrical connector 1 with a first housing 10; a second electrical connector 7 with a second housing 70, the second housing 70 having a projection opening 90a along one surface; a plate 2 connected to the first housing 10, the plate 2 having a projection 24; when the first housing 10 is connected to the second housing 70 to couple the first electrical connector 1 to the second electrical connector 7 the projection 24 is detachably engaged with the projection opening 90a to detachably lock the first electrical connector 1 to the second electrical connector 7 as shown in FIG. 5. The Office also asserts that Thenaisie discloses a first section 20 connected to the first electrical connector 1, a second section 22 having the projection 24, and a biasing element (the bent portion located between 24 and 25) connected between the first and second sections 20, 22.

Thenaisie does not disclose or suggest, "wherein an outer periphery of the projection is substantially the same size as an inner periphery of the projection opening" as recited in claims 1, 7, or 13. The Office's attention is respectfully directed to FIGS. 5 and 6 in Thenaisie which illustrate that the opening 90a is substantially larger than the hook 24 providing for a gap on either side of the hook 24 and the periphery of the opening 90a. As a result, when the hook 24 is seated in the opening 90a, movement of the plug 7 with respect to the socket 1 is possible. As discussed in the background of the above-identified patent

application one of the problems with prior electrical connectors is that with vibrations plugs can be loosen and disconnect. As illustrated in FIG. 2 in the above-identified patent application, the outer periphery of the boss 38(1) is substantially the same size as the inner periphery of opening 32(1), so that when the boss 38(1) is seated in the opening 32(1), the operator knows the first and second electrical connectors 12 and 14 are secured together and the first and second electrical connectors 12 and 14 can not be loosened or disconnect. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 7, and 13. Since claims 2-6 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 1, claims 8-12 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 7, and claims 14-16 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 13, they are distinguishable over the cited references and patentable in the same manner as claims 1, 7, and 13.

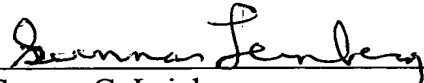
Thenaisie does not disclose or suggest, “the biasing element is spaced a first distance away from and is not adjacent to the other one of the projection and the projection opening on the plate” as recited in claims 4, 10, and 15. The Office’s attention is respectfully directed to FIG. 2 in Thenaisie which illustrates that the bent portion located between hook 24 and projection 25 which the Office asserts is the biasing element and which is in direct contact with and adjacent to the hook 24. By spacing the biasing element a distance away from the projection and projection opening in the present invention, the less force is required by a user to disengage the projection from the projection opening. As a result, the present invention is more user friendly. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 10, and 15. Since claim 5 depends from and contains the limitations of claim 4, claim 11 depends from and contains the limitations of claim 10, and claim 16 depends from and contains the limitations of claim 15, they are distinguishable over the cited references and patentable in the same manner as claims 4, 10, and 15.

Applicants have also added new dependent claims 17-19 which are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references and in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicant submits that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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